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WorldBriefs

Major Powers frustrate UN Conference on Small Arms

The United States, Russia and China have demonstrated hostility to any global regulatory agreement that would impose controls on the role of governments in the arms trade, at a recent UN Conference on Small Arms. The conference has "not addressed state responsibility for weapons proliferation and has focused too much on the illegal trafficking of small arms", according to a Human Rights Watch (HRW) report.

Joost Hiltermann, Executive Director of the Arms Division at HRW, said the conference was "set to produce a program of inaction. The conference should have adopted a clear standard. That no government should authorise any transfer of arms to a state or non-state actor as long as there is a clear risk that these arms will be used by the likely recipient to commit gross human rights abuses, war crimes, or crimes against humanity" he said.

Drugs priced beyond the reach of the poor

Oxfam has accused Pfizer, the world's largest and richest drug company, of moral bankruptcy because the corporation prices life-saving drugs beyond the reach of millions of poor people.

In a new report, 'Formula for Fairness: patient rights before patent rights', the UK-based human rights organisation says that the \$266 billion company has aggressively enforced its patents in poor countries, forcing the price of important life-saving drugs up. The report shows how Pfizer has used its position as the most powerful political lobbyist in the industry to encourage the US to threaten trade sanctions against poorer countries.

It also shows that, unlike many of its competitors, Pfizer has not cut the price of its branded drugs in the developing world despite mounting international pressure. It suggests the donation schemes it offers are ad hoc, reversible, and limited.

Oxfam is calling on Pfizer to help save lives in the developing world. It calls on Pfizer to stop using its corporate muscle to lobby for tough WTO patent rules in poor countries,

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Dangerous occupations

SAM DE SILVA

"A Dirty Little War" by journalist John Martinkus was launched along with a photographic exhibition in Melbourne on Friday 20th July. The book chronicles, through the first-hand experiences of Martinkus, the final stages in

East Timor's struggle for independence.

A few hours after the book launch in Melbourne, 23 year-old Carlo Giuliani was shot dead by police. The incident occurred during G8 Summit protests, in Genoa, Italy. Images released on the world wide web show Giuliani holding a fire

extinguisher moments before his death. Authorities claim they were acting in self-defence. However, it is reported that the 20 year-old police conscript who shot the activist could face manslaughter charges.

The G8 Summit is the annual gathering of leaders from USA, Britain, Canada, France,

Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia to discuss the state of the world economy. The Summit allegedly addresses issues such as poverty and the environment - but protest groups describe this claim as nothing more than good public relations - declaring that previous G8 meetings have made similar statements, but failed to deliver anything of substance.

Genoa was the conclusion of a summer of European protests that started with the European Union Summit in Göteborg, Sweden. Plans for the G8 Summit and the inevitable protests had been building for months, with predictions that over 100,000 people would converge on the Italian port city. Over 15,000 riot police were mobilised while hundreds of small and large protest groups planned various actions.

With the death of Giuliani many protestors are describing Genoa as a major turning point in the movement against corporate globalisation. Mainstream media are also highlighting the significance of what has happened. CNN reports the incident as "the first death during anti-globalisation protests, which have become a regular event at international gatherings since the 1999 clashes at the World Trade Organisation meeting in Seattle."

But of course this is not entirely true. Many people have been killed in protests against corporate globalisation.

In late June, four students were shot dead by police during protests against IMF- and World Bank-driven economic reform in Papua New Guinea. And there have been hundreds more deaths like these during other acts of 'civil disobedience'. Expressing opposition has long been a dangerous occupation in many regions of the world.

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A plea from the streets of Genoa. Sourced from www.indymedia.org

Kyoto - Agreement despite the US

DOMENICA SETTLE

On Monday July 23rd the 180 countries present at the Bonn climate talks surprised the world by reaching an agreement on the rules of the Kyoto Protocol. While the "Bonn Agreement" has been described as "heavily diluted" by green groups and as "a small step forward" by the Australian government, it has raised the protocol's

hopes of coming into force legally, after the potentially disastrous withdrawal of the United States in March. Officially called "COP 6 Part II", in the hope that the sequel might be more exciting than the original, the talks are a follow on from the sixth Conference of the Parties meeting in the Hague last year, which stalled after the European Union and the United States failed to agree. As European Union

Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom put it, at least Bonn has shown that the international community can actually come to agreement.

The controversial points in the agreement have been the strength (or lack) of penalties for countries which don't stick to their Kyoto targets, and the counting of vegetation which absorbs carbon dioxide as

effectively being a cut in emissions. Australia has been a key player on both of these issues, presenting what the Australian Aluminium Council has described as "a principled position" and the Australian Conservation Foundation has described as "an inglorious performance".

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To the heart of the matter - police raid on media and legal centre

NIK BEURET
TABATHA FULKER

Most people would be aware of the happenings in Genoa, Italy recently. We've seen the photos of 'running battles' with the police. We've heard all about the 'Black Bloc' and 'protester violence'. And we have all seen the photos of the young man shot dead by the Italian police.

But the dead Italian protester stands out in the media as an aberration. Even though many of the images and video footage that we see is of police beating, gassing, or hosing down protesters, the constant refrain is that police are doing their best to protect the average citizens of Genoa and their legitimate elected representatives from the hordes of rampaging anarchists.

One of the stories from Genoa that stands out as a glaring contradiction to the mainstream media 'line' is the under reported police raid on the Italian Indymedia centre, and the Genoa Social Forum [GSF] Centre, housing the legal support office and public meeting and sleeping spaces.

At around 2am on Sunday 22nd of July 200 Italian police officers dressed in riot gear and wielding batons, raided the centres.

When the police entered the Indymedia centre they pushed all the people inside the building into one room, forcing them to

stand spread-eagle against the wall. They were forced to stand this way while police searched the centre. They confiscated mini disks, video footage of the protests, computer disks, as well as some salad knives from the kitchen and gas masks.

In the GSF centre it was a more violent story.

On arrival police assaulted people standing outside of the centre, beating them heavily. One of the victims, a UK reporter, was held down by the neck by one officer while the others beat him with clubs. He was left lying unconscious in the street, covered in blood.

Inside the building people who had been sleeping or eating raised their hands saying 'pacifisti'. The police indiscriminately beat people throughout the centre in an assault lasting over 45 minutes. 61 people were injured in the raid, with more than a dozen people carried out on stretchers, and 31 people hospitalised. Between the two centres 93 arrests were made.

An Amnesty International investigation on the Sunday morning described scenes of dried blood smeared over the walls and floors of the GSF, and smashed equipment.

Markus, a 25-year-old social worker from near Berlin, was asleep on the floor of the centre. He woke, he says, to shouts and screams, doors being broken down and the police charging in.

"They burst into the room wearing black masks, started

throwing things at us. They smashed computers and started beating people in their bags. Five of us rushed upstairs and climbed out of a window and then down a drainpipe. But the police were there.

"They told us to lie on the ground and then they started beating us with truncheons and kicking. Three of them beat me for two, perhaps three, minutes. I thought they were going to kill us. Two of my friends were very badly hurt in the head; there was blood everywhere."

The GSF legal office was ransacked and the computers destroyed. Hard drives were taken and the phones smashed. The computers contained all of the information relating to legal aid and police brutality from the G8 protests.

A spokesman for the Social Forum said: "They took away documents, witness statements of police brutality, lists of lawyers and video evidence collected against people for the violence in the past few days."

An interior ministry source admitted that the raid had turned into a revenge attack by police venting their frustration after two days of failing to control looting and thuggery.

Officially the operation has been called a success. The officers who stormed the two schools in which the forum had its headquarters stated that they had found two Molotov cocktails, a nail bomb, two

sledgehammers, a pickaxe and 12 penknives. Apparently they also found black clothing, indicating the presence of Black Bloc members.

A GSF spokesman said the sledgehammers and pickaxe, which were covered in dust, had been left by workmen who had

not yet finished building the school which housed the GSF centre. Penknives were used to open tins of food, and as one Indymedia reporter stated, black clothes do not immediately assume the presence of Black Bloc members.



Chaos at the Indymedia space in Genoa

Say what?

DOMINIC PANGRAZIO

As the Federal election approaches, the public can be sure to hear John Howard and Kim Beazley selling their policies in the name of the 'national interest'. Used in conflicting contexts, this term is often empty and devoid of meaning. The use of meaningless words in public discourse is a common symptom of a wider trend. Politicians, advertisers and the like are increasingly using carefully selected language to confuse and distort.

In the *Public Relations Quarterly* US Professor William Lutz describes the development of 'doublespeak' as "incongruity between what is said or left unsaid and what really is". This is not a new technique; George Orwell's 1984 warned that new forms of mass media such as television and radio can be used to manipulate public opinion and stifle individual thought.

Careful selection of language can play on the fears and stereotypes held by a society. The use of propaganda during the Cold War, for example, led to the dumbing down of valuable political ideas. 'Capitalism' and 'communism' were turned into meaningless labels accompanied by polarised and emotional discourse. Tabloid newspapers also favour emotive words over objective descriptions of events. The recent case of the Fraser Island 'killer dingoes' is a case in point.

If knowledge is power then how knowledge is communicated is a means by which to consolidate power. The use of scientific and academic language can give the

impression of objective analysis and produce authority over what is being said, sometimes in an effort to hide ideology. The speaker can create an air of secrecy and profundity, even though what they are saying is simple.

Another example is the media's use of the passive voice. Phrases such as *mistakes were made* and *people were killed*, hide the subject from the action committed. We need to ask ourselves who made the mistakes? Who killed the people? Reducing the audience's ability to identify cause with effect reduces the audience's ability to identify the subject's responsibility for their actions.

Another doublespeak technique is used to minimise negative public reaction to sensitive issues. The substitution of a clear word for euphemistic jargon is found in all forms of manufactured communication, but is perhaps most often used by the military. Terms like *ethnic cleansing* (genocide), *collateral damage* (killing civilians) or *servicing the target* (killing the enemy), are used to distance the audience from the gruesome and unpredictable reality of war.

Perhaps the most pervasive form of doublespeak is the subtle promotion of an ideological agenda through the description of everyday events, people and institutions. Specific terminology is used, consistent with the dominant world-view of the time. This can take generations to be absorbed into the mainstream and severely reduces our ability to perceive the world outside its descriptive framework.

Today's dominant idiom is managerial language. In an article in *Business News, New Jersey* Lutz identifies 58 euphemistic terms used by managers to fire their employees. These include *cost*

rationalisation, volume related production schedule adjustment, indefinite idling and, of course, downsizing. We are consumers rather than *people, clients* rather than *patients* or *students*. The barometer of our social well being is attached to the rise and fall of consumer confidence.

Managerial language and contemporary political language use long sentences to create a sense of intelligence, whilst actually making the sentence less accurate. Consider the phrase: *In my opinion it is not an unjustifiable assumption that.* Although it would be far easier and clearer to say *I think*, the nature of this simple verb binds the speaker to what they say next. Direct language makes one more accountable. That's why we hear so many drawn out phrases employed by politicians and public relations representatives that avoid personal responsibility. Parliamentary question time is full of wonderful examples of extended verbs, conjunctions and prepositional phrases employed to evade answering a question.

Add scientific or academic jargon to the mix and you have a perfect recipe suitable for the 'manufacturing of consent'. These techniques allow governments and corporations the freedom to promote ideas that would appear repulsive, discordant or even down right stupid if spoken in plain English. At best doublespeak makes language sound messy and vague; at worst it makes lies sound like truth. When Orwell wrote in 1946 that "language is an instrument that we shape for our own purposes," he was reminding us that language can be used to control what others think as well as to empower them through clear explanation of ideas. So, remember to

arm yourself with a dictionary and consider Orwell's six points on clear communication.

- 1) Never use a metaphor, simile, or other figure of speech that you are used to seeing in print.
- 2) Never use a long word where a short one will do.
- 3) Always cut words out where possible.
- 4) Never use the passive when you can use the active voice
- 5) Never use a foreign phrase, a scientific word, or a jargon word if you can think of an everyday English equivalent.
- 6) Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

Following these rules will make you a better communicator and, more importantly, give you the tools to debunk all the doublespeak that poses as clear expression and rational argument in today's public discourse.

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stop bullying and insisting on full patent protection, and cut the cost of medicines for the World's poorest people.

Ministers focus G-8 agenda on Africa

Jul 19 (IPS) - Africa's desperate situation figures among the priorities of the summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) most powerful countries in the world, to begin Friday in the Italian port city of Genoa, while Latin America barely merits a mention.

The tensions in Colombia are the only Latin American concern expressed by the G-8 foreign ministers, who wrapped up their pre-summit deliberations on Thursday.

In the five pages that summarise the interests of the foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and United States, just eight lines refer to Colombia, the only Latin American nation included in the text.

Italy's Foreign minister Renato Ruggiero announced that the problems confronting Africa would be the focus of a large portion of the discussions in Genoa. "There is consensus about the need to end the wars on that continent and to build a culture of conflict prevention," he said.

Global Gag Rule threatens lives of Nepali women

Dr. Nirmal K. Bista, director general of the Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), testified with other family planning and human rights experts before the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee on how the global gag rule has threatened the lives of poor women in his country. FPAN has received assistance from the United States since 1973; loss of this assistance jeopardises the existence of three family planning clinics in Nepal's most densely populated areas.

The global gag rule, imposed by President George W. Bush on his first official day in office, restricts non-governmental organisations in other countries receiving U.S. international family planning assistance from using their own money to provide abortion services, counselling or referrals or to lobby to change abortion laws.

Nepal has the fourth highest maternal mortality rate in the world and it is assessed that approximately 78,000 women die every year from unsafe abortion.

Although abortion is illegal in Nepal, officials at the Nepalese Ministry of Health have concluded that legalising abortion should be the first step towards reducing maternal mortality. It is estimated that six women die every day in Nepal due to unsafe abortion performed by unskilled providers.

Protecting children from child labour

A two-year project aimed at protecting children from "the worst forms of child labour" was officially launched on Monday in Senegal's capital Dakar. The project aims to prevent children from being placed in abusive situations such as hard labour and sexual exploitation, and to rehabilitate those who are already victims of such practices. The project also seeks to reinforce cooperation and strengthen the capacities of ministries, NGOs and

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GM food - from 'no thanks' to 'no choice'

LIAM CRANLEY

GeneEthics activists lobbied NSW Farmers last week to support a five-year moratorium on Genetically Modified (GM) crops. From licensing of crops to food labelling, GM legislation is embedded with loopholes.

Farmers arriving at the NSW Farmers Federation Conference last Monday were handed GM-free canola seed by colourfully dressed vegetables. The activist group GeneEthics Sydney was calling on farmers at the conference to support a minimum five-year freeze on genetic-ally engineered crops. Tasmania has recently extended its moratorium on GM crop releases for a further two years. "Farmers are key players in the debate over whether or not to grow GM crops in Australia," said GeneEthics spokesperson Georgia Miller. "Major Australian markets, including Japan, the European Union, the Middle East and South East Asia, are crying out for GM-free goods. Individual farmers must realise they bear a risk in planting GM crops, that their products might be unsaleable. We are calling on the NSW Farmers Association to take a responsible position and implement a five year GM freeze policy," she said.

Contamination of conventional and even certified organic crops with GM material is becoming commonplace. The Starlink corn debacle will cost multinational Aventis somewhere between \$100million and \$1billion, and has involved the recall of millions of tons of corn contaminated by the company's GM version. Across the European Union, canola growers

unwittingly planted, harvested and sold GM canola - the 'accident' was not made public until after the produce had been consumed. Such contamination has happened in the field through pollen drift; post harvest, when GM produce is mixed with GM-free produce for transport or processing; and even in the seed supplies stage.

The US organisation that certifies farms as

numerous infringements of guidelines for field trials, but no prosecutions as yet. Field trial GM plants have been left in the field for months after the end date of trials and allowed to set seed - and workers have taken seed and plants home with them. Often GM plants were not destroyed as is required, but merely dumped at local tips. Any of these incidents result in GM plant varieties escaping into the

Major Australian markets, including Japan, the European Union, the Middle East and South East Asia, are crying out for GM-free goods.

organic (Farm Verified Organic) announced earlier this year that GM pollution of corn, canola and possibly soybeans was now so pervasive in the US that "we believe it is not possible for farmers in North America to source seed free from it." Around the same time, a Wall Street Journal investigation found many supposedly organic products had GM content.

The relevant legislation in Australia is the Gene Technology Act 2000, passed by the Liberal and Labour parties. According to the Organic Growers Association it was passed without amendments promised to many stakeholders, and without regard to the Senate's own report on the matter. The Association is particularly worried about the rights of GM-free farmers.

The Act enables release of GM crops under either Field Trial or General Release Licenses. No GM crops have yet been grown under General Release licenses, but the Federal Government has approved Field Trial Licenses in most states. There have been

environment, crossbreeding with weeds and risk contaminating neighbouring GM-free crops.

The legislation clearly limits the power of the regulator, and limits the liability of the companies marketing GM varieties. The regulator cannot specify buffer zones to protect non-GM farmers;

Imagine if I could patent my cold, and then charge you for catching it.

cannot specify disclosure of location; and cannot impose any requirement for segregation of produce. Since these were things the community lobbied the legislation to enable, it is no surprise the Government have been secretive about passing the Act.

Under legislation, the locations of field trials is to be public, except where the company shows that the location should be kept secret. 100 per cent of trial locations so far have been held secret. Other than asking their neighbours (and hoping they're

honest), a farmer can apply to the regulator to ascertain whether there are field trials in their area. An answer may take 3-7 months, long after the crops have been harvested and contamination has happened. If a farmer is certain their GM-free crop has been contaminated by their neighbours' GM plants, they can only pursue their neighbour and not the company collecting the licensing fee, and only through the civil courts.

Any farmer wanting to claim organic or GM-Free status must have absolutely no detectable level of GM contamination. Advice from the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC) to the OGA states that any farmer claiming Non-GM status must have absolutely no detectable level of GM present. Under Section 52 of the Trade Practices Act, if there is any detectable level of GM contamination then a GM-free or Non-GM claim is considered misleading and deceptive conduct. Effectively, GM contamination could ruin years of

Australia, usually as ingredients in processed foods or constituents for local manufacturers. Labelling of GM content in foods is rather dependent on knowing it is there. The Australian Consumers Association found that most food manufacturers are not willing or able to say exactly which foods have GM ingredients. Those companies that know they have no GM ingredients proudly announce it; the rest are vague.

Australia and New Zealand agreed on uniform labelling laws last year, however, implementation in Australia is being held back by the State Governments, according to the Federal Government - and by the Federal Government, according to the States.

The new labelling regulations have been attacked by the Australian Consumers Association and the Australian Medical Association for what they leave out. Exemptions from labelling takeaway or 'dining out' foods exist, as do exemptions where GM ingredients make up less than 1% of the product. The authorising of the label 'may contain...GM' is criticised as being vague to consumers, who have a right to know.

There exist loopholes in labelling; no protection of the rights of GM-free farmers and the environment; and a pollyanna government blasé about the risks. The boosters of GM crops work for the day that GM content in food is inescapable - the genetic litter of fast (and profitable) food science. Is that what we want?

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Offensive behaviour at Nike!!

Denis Evans, former chairperson of 3CR and journalist was charged with offensive behaviour, resisting arrest and failing to give a name and address. The incident happened on 20 July, during the regular Friday evening protest outside the Nike Super store in Bourke Street Melbourne.

According to Evans, he had just finished doing a live interview for community radio 3CR and had attempted to interview an under cover police officer. Having been refused, he says he concluded the broadcast and rinsed his mouth with mouthwash and spat out in the gutter. He was then arrested. Evans says he was being video taped by under-cover police and says he was "absolutely shocked" when he was arrested.

Having learn't of his arrest, the protestors proceeded to the lock-up where Evans was held. Evans is grateful for the solidarity of the protestors saying that when the protestors arrived outside where he was held, "police were given orders to get rid of me as quickly as possible".



Police arrest Denis Evans. Photo by Regis Martin

Mad Cow disease: Britain's manmade pandemic

DR LYNETTE J DUMBLE

Since the 1996 admission that British cattle suffering from Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) had introduced the agent of an invariably fatal brain illness (a variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease referred to as vCJD) into the human food chain, BSE has subsequently spread to cattle across Europe.

The mystery illness now known as BSE first appeared in a British dairy cow in 1985. So far, almost 200,000 cattle have contracted BSE, most in Britain where the number exceeds 180,000. Another five million cattle aged less than 30 months and without physical signs of BSE have been slaughtered in pre-emptive measures to safeguard public health.

The primary risk of BSE to humans extends to the more obvious edibles like steak, milk, cream, and cheese, and also to the less obvious like hamburger, various canned meats and soup, small goods like salami, bovine-based health supplements, and gelatin-based confectionery. Because BSE-infected beef consumers are possibly living incubators of vCJD, they, like asymptomatic carriers of blood-borne infections such as hepatitis and syphilis, have the potential to cross infect others via blood transfusion, organ transplants, and surgical instruments. Overall, in the context of an infected food chain, and the likelihood of a contaminated health system, BSE looms as a pandemic that may put HIV/AIDS in the shade.

The agent of spongiform encephalopathies incubates silently in animals and humans for a prolonged period of time before outward signs of the infection become obvious. By that stage, the agent of BSE/CJD has eaten microscopic holes in the brain, leaving cattle confused and trembling, deprived of their own feet to stand on - a

furnace their tragic fate. CJD-symptomatic humans also suffer gait problems, and over periods of time, varying from weeks to years, are progressively robbed of every means of communication; the ability to hear, see, speak, and comprehend either written or spoken native language. British expert John Collinge recently informed the World Congress of Neurology in London that vCJD could lie dormant for as many as 50 years.

Since vCJD claimed its first "official" human death in 1995, the toll has slowly but steadily increased in the UK. By June 2001, 94 of the 102 known victims were dead. Amongst those clinging to life, one in Ireland and a 34 year-old woman in Hong Kong, have a history of time spent in the UK. A further 3 cases are reported in the French Caribbean, and two more in North Korea. The Blair Administration has revised previous figures to profess that the human death toll may climb to 250,000. Subsequent to the latest vCJD death in Britain, (a 28 year old Scottish woman who four months earlier had given birth to her first child,) Professor Hugh Pennington, a CJD expert at Aberdeen University, warned that pregnant women might be prone to vCJD.

One theory maintains that the BSE epidemic emerged from a post-World War II British strategy adopted to increase the milk yield of dairy herds. In brief, cows were fed on protein-enriched pellets extracted from the animal carcasses held in abattoir and boning plants, and from animal leftovers discarded by butchers, restaurants, and knackeries. The carcasses of scrapie-infected sheep, and between the years of 1985 and 1988, those of BSE-infected cattle, found their way into the protein-enriched animal feed.

Overall, the rendered fodder which initially turned cattle into carnivores, and ultimately into cannibals, was a huge industry which supplied animal feed to livestock and pet owners, and to zoos for a number of animal species held in captivity.

Mark Purdey, an organic farmer from Somerset in England, alternatively suggests that organophosphate pesticides might be responsible for BSE. Three years before the first case of BSE was reported in Kent, British authorities imposed a compulsory organophosphate pesticide spray [phosmet] on cattle to combat a plague of Warble fly. Manufactured by Zeneca, a subdivision of the British chemical giant ICI, phosmet is a neurological toxin originally developed by the Nazis, and was used exclusively in Britain between 1982 and 1990. Purdey's largely neglected theory argues that the exposure of the bovine

embryo to high dose organophosphates triggers the deformation of cattle prion protein, thereby facilitating the onset of BSE.

In Europe, the argichemical division of Switzerland's Sandoz leaked tons of organophosphate pesticide into the Rhine in 1986, killing all aquatic life in the river between Basel and the North Sea. It took seven years to revive the river, but it can be argued that Sandoz's spill played a role in the BSE which subsequently afflicted cattle in Switzerland, France and Germany in the late 1990s.

According to Purdey, funding for BSE-

BSE looms as a pandemic that may put HIV/AIDS in the shade

organophosphate research might never eventuate: "No one's prepared to admit it because it would involve massive compensation. By keeping the causal agent as something mystified, no one's to blame." He could be right. Syngenta Ag now heads the worldwide distribution of organophosphate pesticides and has risen to become number one in world agrichemical supplies.

Even as the BSE epidemic escalated in cattle, and with it concerns that BSE might jump the species barrier to infect humans, measures to eradicate BSE and prevent infected meat from entering the human food chain took second place behind preserving Britain's most profitable primary industry. Three years passed before Britain banned the feeding of rendered fodder to cattle in 1988, and for another eight years authorities insisted that it was absolutely safe to eat British beef. Few will forget the then-Minister for Agriculture, John Gummer, stuffing hamburger into his five year-old daughter's mouth to demonstrate his confidence! In between times, BSE-like illnesses emerged in zoo ungulates, together with domestic and wild cats, and with the advent of 10 well documented human deaths from vCJD, the British Prime Minister John Major broke the news in March 1996 that BSE had jumped the species barrier to infect humans. Only then did Britain cease exporting rendered fodder.

While fiddling to protect the national economy, Britain summoned world experts to a meeting in 1989 seeking advice. Unwittingly, the solutions put forward by the experts, all sworn to secrecy regarding the risk attached to Britain's global trade in cattle and rendered animal fodder, shaped the events which have subsequently spread BSE across the globe. Laura Manuelidis, physician and professor of neuroscience at Yale University, proposed that the epidemic could be brought to a close with the immediate cull of infected herds. Britain's attitude to the Manuelidis solution was, in her words, penny-wise, pound-foolish, and her idea was dismissed on the grounds that compensation for the owners of the herds was financially out of the question.

From then onwards, the global spread of mad cow disease went into full swing. Britons were placed at further risk of vCJD when an estimated 700,000 BSE-infected cattle entered their food chain. Next, the duplicity of the British Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food [MAFF] exposed mainland Europeans to an unknown quantity of BSE-contaminated veal among

the two million calves transported to European saleyards between 1990 and 1995. MAFF also sabotaged a 1990 Brussels ruling designed to prevent the spread of BSE outside Britain when it issued civil servants with secret orders to skip the computer vetting of calves which would have identified BSE-infected animals.

Between the years of 1988 and 1992, the European market for Britain's animal protein-enriched fodder evaporated. To fill the gap, a new apartheid was adopted with Prosper de Mulder, Britain's largest rendering company, exporting 80,000 tons of BSE-suspect fodder over the next four years to chiefly Third World countries. Other European countries followed suit.

In the thirst for greater and greater market profits through hybrid strains, between 1988 and 1996, Britain also exported 3.2 million live cattle to 36 countries, representing every world region. Claimed to be "BSE free," over the years these cattle have spread BSE not only to mainland Europe, but also to Canada, the Falkland Islands and Oman. Several other European countries also exported millions of live cattle worldwide, and in December 2000, Kuwait discovered BSE in a three-year-old dairy cow imported from the European mainland. The French Minister for Agriculture Jean Glavany, has pointed the finger at Britain saying that "morally, they should be judged for that one day. They even allowed themselves the luxury of banning the use of such feed (in Britain) while allowing it to be exported." But while mainland Europe takes the high moral ground on the globalization of BSE, a number of EU member nations continued to ship tonnes of their own BSE-suspect animal fodder to developing regions until January 2000.

Authorities in Australia, like those in the United States, claim to have imported little or no rendered fodder or live cattle from the UK, and boast not to be at risk of BSE. History may tell otherwise. Already there are reports of vCJD-like illnesses in India, Hong Kong, Korea, Pakistan, South Africa, Thailand and the French Caribbean. As the WHO and Professor Manuelidis have recently underlined, the social and environmental impact of BSE-infected herds and food chains in developing regions is likely far more tragic than that presently bemoaned in Europe.

It may prove irrelevant whether organophosphate pesticides, or rendered animal fodder, triggered the BSE pandemic because both have been spread to the four corners of the globe with gay abandon. There are obvious lessons, not the least the price for placing profit ahead of animal integrity and public welfare. At a June 2001 conference convened by the UN in Paris, scientists admitted that BSE had "joined AIDS as a major health challenge facing the world", and called on governments to test for BSE in cattle used for human consumption, and impose a worldwide ban on rendered cattle feed. Within 30 days that message had fallen on deaf ears, with the top United Nations food standards body, the Codex commission, failing to agree on a mandatory ban of rendered animal feed. No doubt there are other corporate interests that have to be fed first!



Modern cattle feeding processes have led to a worldwide crisis. Sourced from www.freefoto.com

New legislation proposed to disperse protests

ANDREA BOLT

The Victorian State Labor Government is set to propose new legislation giving police wide ranging powers to violently disperse political protests, demonstrations and picket lines.

Entitled the Peaceful Assemblies Bill, the legislation is

due to be introduced and passed in the spring session of the Victorian Parliament.

The new legislation would replace the old Unlawful Assemblies Processions Act 1958. The proposed bill would give police the power to use force to disperse any assembly they

believe may involve unlawful damage to property or violence.

In practice what this means is a police officer, of the rank of senior sergeant or above, may give a direction to an assembly of people (demonstration, protest, march or picket line) to disperse if they are acting in a manner, or if the police believe they may act

in a manner "involving unlawful physical violence to persons or unlawful damage to property" (Section 6).

If the assembly of people does not disperse, the police have the right to use "reasonable force" to disperse the assembly (Section 9).

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Andrea

Haermeyer is allowing public comment and submissions on the bill only until July 30.

A draft of the bill and supporting discussion paper are available online at:

www.justice.vic.gov.au

Dangerous occupations Continued from page 1

In "A Dirty Little War", John Martinkus gives his personal account of East Timor over three years from January 1997. In the first chapter he writes of being called out to a deserted beach, and goes on to describe what he saw - "a headless body, no hands, no feet, was lying in the water, moving with the tide...In another country this would have been a crime scene".

Many protestors are describing Genoa as a major turning point in the movement against corporate globalisation.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975 and during its 25-year brutal occupation, over 250,000 people (about one third of the territory's population) died. The Indonesian regime clearly understood that the rest of the world was not interested in East Timor and continued to violently suppress any uprising against its rule.

Martinkus confirms our suspicions that the Indonesian authorities are the ones responsible for the headless body lying in the water on the deserted beach. "Their point was blunt: support independence and this is what will happen".

"A Dirty Little War", which I have yet to complete reading, documents the final stages of the territory's independence struggle. As East Timorese leader Xanana Gusmao stresses in his forward to the book - "Far worse atrocities than those detailed here were carried out against the East Timorese people in the late seventies and eighties. Sadly for us, these were not well documented".

The lack of documentation was not a result of the East Timorese not wanting to express their situation. It was because the governments of the world did not want to hear about what the Indonesian regime was doing to the East Timorese.

During the Indonesian invasion in 1975, five Australian-based journalists were killed while attempting to provide coverage of the situation in East Timor. Despite substantial evidence indicating that the journalists were effectively executed, the Australian Government still maintains the five were accidentally killed in crossfire.

On Sunday 22nd July, as I conclude this article - reports are coming in of more police violence in Genoa. ABC Online reports that Italian police have "conducted a raid on the press centre of the anti-globalisation movement, Genoa

Social Forum." Italy Indymedia was one of the groups based at the press centre and its website reports that not only did the police destroy the place and take away computers and files, but also violence was inflicted by the police on those who were inside. BBC Online confirms what happened: "A BBC correspondent who entered the building immediately after the raid said he saw a number of badly injured people, and pools of blood in the rooms."

The Italian police say the raid on the press centre was the result of a tip-off and that iron bars, knives, blunt objects and black T-shirts had been seized. But Italy Indymedia suggests police were looking for an escape - they wanted to justify their violence on the streets and their killing of a young man.

Revenge by authorities was a common occurrence in East Timor. John Martinkus describes the "regular routine" carried out by the Indonesian military intelligence unit when they sought revenge: "a family would suddenly find men armed with guns inside their house late at night. The masked men would take away the man of the house and often rape the mother or daughters. Young men, particularly those with an education, were almost always taken away. Often they were never heard of again; sometimes their mutilated remains were discovered weeks later, by the roadside or dumped on some vacant land or the beach."

Attempting to explain and understand what happened in Genoa and in places like East Timor is part of an ongoing discussion that will not necessarily have a tidy conclusion.

The East Timorese were determined not to be part of Indonesia - their vision was to live in an independent country free of the Indonesian regime. Their struggle lasted 25 years and cost the lives of one third of their population. The protests that are occurring at events such as the G8 Summit in Genoa can also be seen as struggles for independence.

It's often claimed that movements against corporate globalisation need to communicate a clearer vision of the future they are struggling for. But this argument

fails to recognise that putting your body on the line is very often a last ditch tactic in an attempt to be listened to.

Perhaps it is the rest of us who need to listen more carefully to what's being said - and time we began to facilitate a culture in which the messages of the less dominant, the less established, are respected and

taken in to consideration, before situations escalate to such extremes.

"A Dirty Little War" by John Martinkus is published by Random House.



Photograph by Dean Sewell



Photograph by Steve Tickner

Australian press photographers exhibition, *East timor January 1997 to February 2000: through the eye of the lens* was on show at the Trades Hall Bar. It will be moved to Dili for permanent exhibition.

Kyoto - Agreement despite the US - continued from page 1

Under the Bonn Agreement, penalties for countries not sticking to their Kyoto targets will be stiffer targets in future. For every excess tonne of carbon emitted, a country must "payback" 1.3 tonnes in the future. While this doesn't even approach the enforceability of trade agreements under the World Trade Organisation, it is a step up from Australia's previous proposal of punishment by "public shaming".

The Clean Development Mechanism allows countries to build "clean" technologies in developing countries, and count the emissions avoided towards their own emissions targets.

Bonn's compromise deal will allow countries to plant extensive plantations, as well using crop lands and grazing lands, as a means of offsetting their reduction targets. It also allows

"sinks" - vegetation which absorbs carbon dioxide - into the protocol's Clean Development Mechanism. The Clean Development Mechanism allows countries in the North ("first world" countries) to build "clean" technologies in developing countries, and count the emissions avoided towards their own emissions targets. "The governments of Australia, Canada and New Zealand...want to avoid action at home to cut greenhouse gas emissions," criticised Simone Lovera of Friends of the Earth International. "To do this they are trying to saddle the planet with millions of acres of environmentally destructive monoculture plantations".

Climate Action Network Australia warns that Bonn's agreement on sinks could halve the environmental effectiveness of

the protocol.

While the Bonn agreement is a mediocre agreement for the climate, it is a major victory for nuclear campaigners, with nuclear energy explicitly excluded from the Clean Development Mechanism. This means that the nuclear industry's hopes - that industrialised countries would fund the expansion of nuclear power in impoverished countries in order to reach their own targets - have been dashed.

"The deal in Bonn can be seen as a victory, but one achieved at very considerable cost to the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol," stated Dr Clive Hamilton, head of the Australia Institute. "Symbolically, however, the deal is of enormous importance because it shows that the future of the world need not depend on the US."

Award 'stolen' by anarchists

The online equivalent to the Academy awards, the Webby Awards, usually has its fair share of controversy. But this year's Webbys surpassed them all. Anarchists stormed the stage at the 5th Annual Webby Awards, which took place on the July 18th, and stole the award for online "News" reporting.

Indymedia (which could be described as an alternative news network) was nominated for an award in the "Activism" category of the Webbys. Several self-identified anarchists attended the award ceremony as a part of the Indymedia contingent.

"Indymedia is news, and it shows the corporate takeover of the internet to say that Indymedia is activism, not news," said one of the

anarchists. Another anarchist present said that if Indymedia is an activist site, then mainstream media like CNN or ABC [two US National TV networks] are "activist (networks) for corporations and rich elites."

As the winner was announced for the "News" category, two masked people ran onto the stage. One, who later identified himself as 'Rabble' - the maintainer of the website protest.net - grabbed the "News" award from the host, shouted: "fuck the corporate media!" then ran off the stage taking the award with him. The host fumbled and said, "someone just took off with the award..." The other person, wearing a bandana as mask, took

...Continued on page 6

...Continued from page 5

pictures of the event and identified himself as an Indymedia reporter.

Rabble was stopped backstage by security and had the award taken away from him. He wasn't arrested, and was later allowed to return to his seat.

In a post to Indymedia on July 19th, Rabble gave his reason for the action:

"The Webby Awards have celebrated sites that pioneer breaking down the wall between advertisers and news content such as Amazon, Inside.com, CNN, Beliefnet, Babycenter and many others. This is the wrong direction to take our collective technological development. We have a choice, either we can use this amazing new medium to become a truly popular mass medium where everybody has a voice or we can use it to drive hyper-consumerism and friction free capitalism."

He continued: "This is a medium that can allow us to radically change the balance of information power. Foucault said "Power is not possessed, rather is exercised." We must exercise our power as creators of technology, consumers of news and culture, people who are willing to think critically about the world to fight for the liberation of our internet."

Its not the first time the Webbys has been disrupted by the clash between corporate and anti-corporate ideologies.

In 1999, Jodi.org threw the Webby that he had just received at the audience, calling them "greedy corporate bastards".

Coca-Cola to be sued for bottlers abuses

JIM LOBE

Labour rights activists are suing Coca-Cola, the giant US-based multinational beverage company, for the killings and intimidation of union leaders at several of its bottling plants in Colombia.

The lawsuit, to be filed in a Miami federal court, charges that Coke, by failing to prevent its bottlers in Colombia from bringing in right-wing paramilitary death squads to break up unions at its plants, bears responsibility for the abuses, including murder and torture, under both US and state law. A Coca-Cola spokesman, Rafael Fernandez, said the Atlanta-based company was not at fault. "We deny any wrongdoing regarding human rights in Colombia or anywhere else," he said, adding that the company had no "specific information" regarding abuses at its bottling plants there.

The lawsuit, which is being brought by the United Steel Workers of America (USWA) and the Washington-based International Labour Rights Fund (ILRF), also named the bottlers, Miami-based Panamco and Bebidas y Alimentos, a company owned by Richard Kirby and his son, Richard Kirby Keilland, as defendants. No one answered the phone listed for the Kirbys, while a Panamco employee said that its management was attending a board meeting and was unavailable for comment. Plaintiffs include SINALTRAINAL, a Colombian trade union that represents workers at a number of beverage and food companies in Colombia; the survivors of Isidro Segundo Gil, who was murdered by paramilitary forces inside the Carepa bottling plant in 1995 and several other union members who allegedly have been subjected to the paramilitaries' campaign of violence and intimidation.

The case is being brought in part to highlight the appalling plight of Colombian labour unionists, several thousand of whom have been murdered over the past 15 years - a

record that has drawn the attention of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), among others. "There has been a very concerted campaign against trade unionists for many years and it seems to have even stepped up in recent months," according to Robin Kirk, a Colombia expert at Human Rights Watch. "Of every five trade unionists murdered in the world, three are Colombian," said Dan Kovalik, a USWA lawyer. He said more than 50 trade union leaders have been killed so far this year, including Oscar Dario Soto Polo, an employee and union official at a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Monertia who was gunned down on June 21st.

Of every five trade unionists murdered in the world, three are Colombian.

The case is being brought in the same week as the US House of Representatives considers a request by President George W. Bush to add some US\$400 million in economic and military aid to the US\$1.3 billion already approved for 'Plan Colombia,' an effort to help government forces gain control of coca-growing regions. The request has run into unexpectedly strong resistance, especially among Democrats, who are concerned that the money would only fuel abuses, particularly by right-wing paramilitary forces that have been supported by military commanders in the past. The paramilitaries, which human rights groups claim are responsible for most of the violence in Colombia, have often acted as hired guns for big landowners and private companies, precisely to discourage workers from organising.

The case is based primarily on the Alien Tort Claims Act, a 200-year-old law that permits foreigners to sue anyone for damages arising from grave human rights abuses committed abroad. The only constraint is that defendants must be served on US territory.

The Act has been used with striking success in gaining big judgements against individuals, including about a dozen foreign heads of state and senior military officers, in lawsuits brought over the past 15 years. Its use against corporations is relatively untested. The ILRF helped bring a suit against UNOCAL, the California-based energy company, for its alleged complicity with Burma's military government in drafting forced labour to build a pipeline, but that case remains in the courts. Last month, it filed another case against Exxon-Mobil for Mobil's alleged backing for military abuses in Aceh, Indonesia.

At the Carepa bottling plant, according to the 60-page complaint, paramilitary forces murdered two activists in April 1994 and were then invited by management at Bebidos y Alimentos to come onto the premises to threaten other members of the local SINALTRAINAL leadership if they did not resign from the union or flee the town altogether. In 1995, every member of the union's executive board left. When the union elected a new board, management hired members of the paramilitaries to work in the sales and production departments. They carried out a campaign of intimidation that included death threats against specific board members and culminated in the murder inside the plant of Isidro Segundo Gil in Dec 1996.

At Panamco's Coca-Cola plant in Bucaramanga, the plaintiffs allege that five members of the local union executive board were falsely accused in 1996 of planting a bomb on the premises during a labour dispute, were badly beaten by local police, and were incarcerated in terrible conditions for six months before the regional prosecutor found that the charges were groundless and ordered them released.

At Panamco's Cucata and Barrancabermeja plants, the local union officials have been forced into hiding after receiving death threats, from paramilitaries beginning in

1999, in connection with their union work. In Barrancabermeja, plant management has openly collaborated with and supported the paramilitaries, according to the complaint. In each case, the union repeatedly asked Coca-Cola Colombia and the bottling company's management for protection. "Coke did nothing," said Kovalik. In all these cases, according to Terry Collingsworth, ILRF's chief attorney, the bottlers effectively acted as Coca-Cola's agent due to the degree of control the soft drink company exercised over their operations under the standard bottling contract. "We are confident that if any of these plants make a mistake in applying Coca-Cola's formula or in delivering Coke, they would be there to correct it," said Kovalik. "But in cases where they kill union leaders, they do nothing."

Collingsworth pointed out that, in a similar case in Guatemala 20 years ago, Coke arranged for the bottling plant owner, John Trotter, to sell his franchise. Trotter was accused of using death squads to kill several union officials between 1978 and 1979. After the sale, the repression at the plant ceased. But in the case of the Carepa plant, Coke turned down an offer by the Kirbys to sell the plant in 1997, despite reports that the elder Kirby had specifically threatened to kill union leaders before Gil's death. "There is no question that Coke knew about and benefited from the systematic repression of trade union rights at its bottling plants in Colombia, and this case will make the company accountable," said Collingsworth. Coke's Fernandez denied, however, that the company received "any notice from Colombian police or anybody of any wrongdoing" in any of the plants. "It is not true that the agreement (between the bottlers and the company) gives us control," he added, noting that Coke expects all its employees and associates to abide by a business code of conduct dating back to 1980.

Article sourced from IPS

Hong's difficult pleasure

PETER HODGE

Pisen Hong's exhibition, *The Red Rider*, is the result of his search for a "cross-cultural artistic identity". Hong started painting in 1959 at the age of 15. He continued though his migration from China to Australia in 1988. His artwork reflects an effort to fuse "Chinese and Australian painting, aesthetic and philosophical thinking."

The story of Hong's life is told through an eye-catching, autobiographical series of nine oil paintings. It steers the viewer through his youth; the "horrible dream" of the Cultural Revolution; his arrival in Australia and his artistic journey in the years since. A journey in which Hong has pursued the "difficult pleasure" of rediscovering himself, and building a "bridge through which Chinese and Australian painting may influence and benefit each other."

During the Cultural Revolution Hong worked as one of a team of artists charged with producing enormous, iconic paintings of Chairman Mao. Hong's work offered him a measure of protection in what was a difficult period for all Chinese. In *My Autobiography 3: A Horrible Dream* (A red

coloured nightmare) Hong has painted himself, adding the final giant brushstrokes to Mao's raised right hand (pictured). His original idea was to draw Mao's face. However the hand, which dwarfs the artist, is far more symbolic of the power Mao had over Hong and all Chinese citizens.

Meditation 2000 is the largest item in Hong's exhibition. It portrays Zen Buddhist monks, solitary figures in their caves seeking enlightenment. When Hong returned to China at the end of last year, *Meditation 2000* travelled with him. Only in China was it possible to find craftsmen who could mount the rice paper on silk. The painting techniques that Hong has used seeks to blend Eastern and Western styles. Perhaps the clearest evidence of this fusion is his use of gouache on rice paper.

Another series of four mixed-media canvas paintings depicts Hong's attempt to represent Australian landscapes from a Chinese perspective. These artworks hold explanatory titles such as *Bass Strait seen from a Confucian perspective: (Land/seascape as ethic and aesthetic models*, and *Central Australia seen from a Taoist perspective: (Eternity - time, space and monumentality).*

Also currently showing at Bendigo's Golden Dragon Museum is Julie Millowick's exhibition, *Love Letters of a Chinese Lady*. It is based on the letters of Kwei-Li, a 19th century Chinese woman corresponding with her husband who is overseas on a diplomatic mission. The exhibition consists of a series of photograms, where Millowick has selected ten of Kwei-li's letters and presented them as a text panel and an image panel.

Julie Millowick's exhibition and the Golden Dragon Museum's permanent collection make further good reason to make the trip up the Calder Highway to Bendigo and view the considerable artistic talent of Pisen Hong.

Pisen Hong's 'The Red Rider' is on exhibition at the Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo, VIC until 10th September.



On exhibition in Bendigo. Photo by Peter Hodge.

WorldBriefs

...Continued from page 3

other agencies involved in the project to enable them to care better for minors.

The launch coincided with the release of statistics covering the period 1993-2000, which reveal that some 400,000 minors aged between six years and 18 years are in "vulnerable and risky situations" in Senegal. They include 34,000 young girls who work as domestic staff for between US \$3 and US \$6 per month, and 100,000 minors employed in farming and fishing. Children displaced by fighting in the southern area of Casamance are also part of the target group. The statistics, released by UNICEF, the International Labour Organization and others agencies, reveal that many of the children suffered trauma and psychological disorders and that they often lived away from their families. www.allafrica.com

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Viva la Galleria Revolution!

TALL PAUL

Is it possible to discuss such complex and ideologically loaded terms as "class", "art" and "culture" without boring an audience to tears or sounding like the kid-always-picked-last for school sports? In an effort to tread the thin line between poseur and whinger I will attempt to discuss how isolated Melbourne's art/alternative scene can be from the lives of working class people.

That's right, a real live 100% fair dinkum Australian working class male will try to explain in 500 words or less why we feel like aliens around the 'scene'. First of all, let's get one thing straight. We're not all caricatures. Working class people don't have a predisposition toward domestic violence, drug abuse and funny accents. We're not all cultural yobbos. It would be just as unfair to state that all of Melbourne's art/activist scene only smoke Peter Stuyvesants and work in multimedia. But at the end of the day, you still don't see too many seamstresses at the Melbourne International Film Festival. With sponsors from the high end of town we know the kind of market the promoters are targeting and it's not us.

It's not that we don't appreciate culture beyond football and Jerry Springer, but from day one it's denied to us, beginning with the under resourced schools we go to, preparing us for exciting and

challenging careers as kitchen hands and process workers. Don't tell me you once got your hands dirty between VCA and graphic design. Imagine doing these jobs for life? What's the use of teaching us about philosophy, painting and the French new wave when we're destined to be factory fodder, dead at 55, our lungs rotted, our arteries clotted, released from the shit existence some call life.

These are probably issues you have never thought about as you drank free wine at the last exhibition opening, or discussed the technical merits of a film over coffee. There is nothing post-modern about being a wage slave. You watch films supposedly mirroring our lives but have you ever been tempted to break out of the scene and meet us or invite us to your next show? Not for amusement value, but because you would like to reach a wider audience, to meet people with stories to tell, who really suffer for their art.

There is nothing post-modern about being a wage slave

I have a particular fantasy about going to an 'industry' night covered in blood and shit from work and screaming, "I'm real. I probably killed that cow you just ate, but you won't talk to me about censorship issues in Iranian films," followed by, "Hey you in the corner, stop talking about

Felix Guattari." Sounds puerile? Have you ever listened to the rubbish the so-called "intelligentsia" come out with to out do each other?

Even though I might sound like a cultural Pol Pot, all I am asking for is a bit more openness and less snobbery in the arts scene.

Who can we blame for this state of affairs? Even though it's fashionable to slag off Communism in favour of Post modernism (whose most famous founding father was an ardent Nazi), at least the old Communist Party of Australia initiated many working class artistic projects; The film production unit within the ex Waterside Workers Federation, and the Builder's Labourers Federation sponsoring those Diego Riviera type murals you still see around town are two notable examples. Now you're lucky if you can get a Union official to come down to work to check out unsafe work practices. Just remember that we're not morons because some of us think that Werner Herzog is the German Formula One driving champion. Besides, we've got a healthy scepticism that enables us to know and feel free to say what's good and bad art.

If I were elected a cultural commissar of Melbourne, I'd make it mandatory for all aspiring artists to show their films or paintings to a select, hand picked group of critics, from the cutting room at my old factory. Van, Zoran, Murat and Wayne would all provide an invaluable service to the artistic community of Melbourne. Each would critically appraise the work in question and pose a series of challenging questions to the artist at hand such as "What the hell is it?" and "Someone funded you to make this?"

Even though I might sound like a cultural Pol Pot, all I am asking for is a bit more openness and less snobbery in the arts scene.

In an effort to open the dialogue between Melbourne's industrial working class and it's artistic community, I'm inviting all artistically-minded people to come down to the Derrimut Hotel in Sunshine for happy hour to have a frank and forthright discussion on "Art and its relation to everyday life." I propose the first discussion be centered around Rainer Fassbinder's 16 hour rendition of "Berlin Alexanderplatz" and whether this is a faithful interpretation of Doblin's book. I just know it's going to be a riot.

Hope to see you there.
dastband@hotmail.com

MCHawking Interview

JEAN POOLE

Next time some party-drunk starts spouting astrophysics from 'A Brief History of Time' to demonstrate how intelligent the conversation could be tomorrow morning, just chill. Gently observe the feng shui of the room, then blow spiralled smoke in their face while asking if they're familiar with Stephen Hawking's hip-hop side project. Yessiree, Jean Poole bee deliverin' you the cultural advantage this week: a candid interview with the world's most famous wheelchair stricken scientist, about his leeettle known MC activities.

Q: What's your next book or current research about?
A: I am currently trying to determine whether or not "Hammer Time" is relative.

Q: What prompted the move from quantum physics into emcee-ing?
A: Yo! Even before I was dropping wax I was a playa'. When I was just doing the science sh*t, I knew something was missing. Then I happened to see the Beastie Boys when they came and performed at the University and it was like: BAM!

Q: How has the scientific community responded to your hip-hop work?
A: Fuck them, the punk-ass mutha-fuckas! They all: "we don't think that this is proper behaviour for a scientist of your stature" and shit. Although there are a few exceptions. Stephen J. Gould is a hardcore mutha-fucka; I got his back.

Q: And the hip-hop community to your science?
A: Yo! At first they was like, "who the fuck is

this egg-head tryin' to bust rhymes?" But once they saw I was legit they came around. I got nothin' but love for my fellow hip hoppers. Except for Dr. Dre (both those mutha-fucka's, the one that was in NWA and the big frankenstein looking mutha-fucka who hosted Yo! MTV Raps like fifty years ago), those bitches ain't got no Phd's!

Q: Are there any other scientists you'd like to do an MC battle with?
A: All them so-called "Creation Scientists", I'd like to go one on one with them ignorant punks! Them and Bill Nye the Science Guy, that bitch needs a beatin'!

Q: What do you think of the growing popularity of gangsta physics?
A: Yo, rap is all about dropping science. It was only a matter of time before rap and science converged.

Q: If you don't mind me asking, do you have much problem with mike control?
A: <Smacks interviewer upside the head with the microphone> How's that for mic control muthafucka?

Q: What'd you think of the eminem & Elton John duet?
A: Don't you mean SIR Elton John? That mutha-fucka's been knighted. What the fuck's up with that? I mean, I ain't never seen Elton John jousting and shit. Fuck, I've never even seen him on a horse! And back when he used to wear all that fucked up Liberace shit, I never once saw him chillin' in plate mail. Shit, bring me a goddamn Bastard Sword and I'll cut that mutha-fucka up like Doomsday on a cross-fade! Fucking "knight" my ass!... What was the question again?

Q: Who would you like to work with?

A: That all depends on what kind of work I'd be doing. If I was working on a house, I would like to work with Norm from "This Old House".

Q: Who are you listening to at the moment?
A: I listen to all kinds of music, you know what I'm sayin'? Right now I'm chilling with Jurassic 5, and Tool primarily, but I've been dusting off my old Public Enemy platters. I'm also down with Zeppelin and shit, and I'm way into Rage Against the Machine. But if I had to pick one band, and only one band, to listen to for the rest of my life, it would be (without question), Tenacious D!--the Greatest Band on Earth!

Q: Got any lines / rhymes on artificial intelligence? (and when do u predict it?)
A: As far as predicting A.I. is concerned, I got no fucking idea; I'm a theoretical astrophysicist, not a fucking computer scientist. However, if that piece of shit movie Spielberg just put out is any indication, I'd say don't hold your damn breath.

Q: Your thoughts on Australia?
A: Well, first I gotta say: where do you muthafuckas get off calling koalas "bears"? Have you ever seen a bear? They're big-ass sonsabitches with sharp teeth and claws. A grizzly bear, that's a bear. A polar bear, that's a bear. Fuck, even panda's are bears. But a koala? Bitch please. Aside from that, Australia's dope. We used to send our prisoners there, that makes Australia the worlds biggest maximum security prison. That means all you muthafuckas are hardcore! Oh, by the way, the world forgives you for Yahoo Serious; but don't try that shit again.

Q: What ideas have you got for future film-clips?
A: I think my next video is going to be for "All My Shootings Be Drive-bys". Some serious gangsta shit, know what I'm sayin'?

Q: Any plans for an Australian tour?
A: I won't tell, but time will.

Q: And finally - how do you cope without being able to skateboard?
A: Yo, I'm constantly rolling! I catch mad air on the half-pipe. Lately I've been working on a phatt 720, but I'm having some trouble landing it.

- jeanpoole@disinfo.net

article webbed at muthafuckin.octapod.org.au

sidebars:

www.mchawking.com

Wanna hear what 'e=mc squared', or 'fuck the creationists' sound like? Check the lyrics, mp3s and letters section of this astrophysicist's much neglected vocal side.

Star Wars gangsta rap:
<http://download.theforce.net/theater/gangsta/starwarz.html>

The force like u ain't never heard it b4. Flash animation of Star Wars with the MC Flava.

Corporate Gangstas:
www.nologo.org

Maybe u herd Naomi Klein speek recently in Sydney or in Melbs alongside Broadway Squatters, bout her book about branding and globalisation? If not, this place b.good.2 check her intressin brand-o-politix.

ART:CULT

Tell us all about it - artcult@thepaper.org.au

VAUDEVILLE ZEN & WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDING presents Ken Arnold's animatronic art installations and Peter Hannaford's mixed-media sculptures parodying the social and political history surrounding some of Melbourne's Kennett-era landmarks. Until Aug 5 at Counihan Gallery (233 Sydney Rd, Brunswick).

The Adelaide Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences is hosting the 'live' and ongoing **GLOBALISATION CONFERENCE NOW <ONLINE>** featuring an interactive set of papers and discussion clusters until August 10. Register at the door - <http://arts.adelaide.edu.au/archss>

NATIONAL TREE DAY AT ART NODE invites Newcastle's public to come and treeplant as a special feature in the overall work of Art Node - a site-specific environmental art installation that sees people with a disability creating permanent artworks with sculptors throughout the year. Feel welcome to get involved at No.4 Oval (near the School of Fine Art) this Friday July 27 from 10am-2pm.

AKIRA: EMBRACE THE APOCALYPSE scopes the technical virtuosity, elaborate narrative and overall innovation of Manga's cult animation classic, Akira. The exhibition, including inspired digital artwork by Ludovica Gioscia and a display of one fan's Akira collector neuroticism, shows at Sydney's Silicon Pulp (176 Parramatta Rd, Stanmore).

Over a year after the police-violence at the Beverley Uranium Mine site the victims are putting on their own **BEVERLEY BASH!** A



benefit gig to assist in the approaching court case investigating the mistreatments, is set to boogie Melbourne's empathy with Hicstep, Root Bound System, Drain Pipe and Caesar says Revolution. At Ace Morning (791 Sydney Rd, Brunswick) on August 2.

Also aiding the police-violence defensive - with a similarly distinct Australian bush-edge - come **THE WOMBATS** debut upon Melbourne's activist scene. A non-violent group using helmets, padding, shields and essential fluffy ears, they take inspiration from the British **WOMBLES** and Italian Ya Basta! tactics of providing a padded buffer at protests. Prepare at weekend workshops from July 27-29 at Camp Eureka (Yarra Junction) or join the action on Hiroshima Day, August 6, at Liberal Party HQ (104 Exhibition St).

The Melbourne International Film Festival gives focus to the exploits of video-jamming - synchronising audio/visual sampling - in a series of nights at Cherry Bar (Corporation Lane, off Flinders Lane). In a special feature, media artist **ANDREW GARTON** premieres a collaborative "mix of environmental clips" from Taiwan and Australia in **UNDER CURRENTS**, July 28.

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Answers to issue fifteen metadada::1

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DOWN: 1.Nervous reaction 2.Zydeco 3.Hikers 4.Learn of spa 5.Off to a good start 6.Duetlist 7.Forms as dew 12.Runs late 14.Client 17.Ni 18.Heroin 21.Loki 23.Ebb 24.Nor

Clicks and Cuts: media news

FREE SPEECH: Hackers offer anti-censorship software

The Hactivismo group of "Robin Hood"-style hackers plans to release software to allow Internet users access to government-banned Web sites, raising the stakes in the battle between free speech campaigners and governments over control of Internet information. Programmer Oxblood Ruffin said: "We believe that access to information is a basic human right guaranteed by law. It is going to be an arms race." The "Peekabooby" software will use a distributed privacy network to get around filters blocking access to material considered political or pornographic by governments like United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar (Burma), China and North Korea.

COPYRIGHTS: Napster appeals continued ban

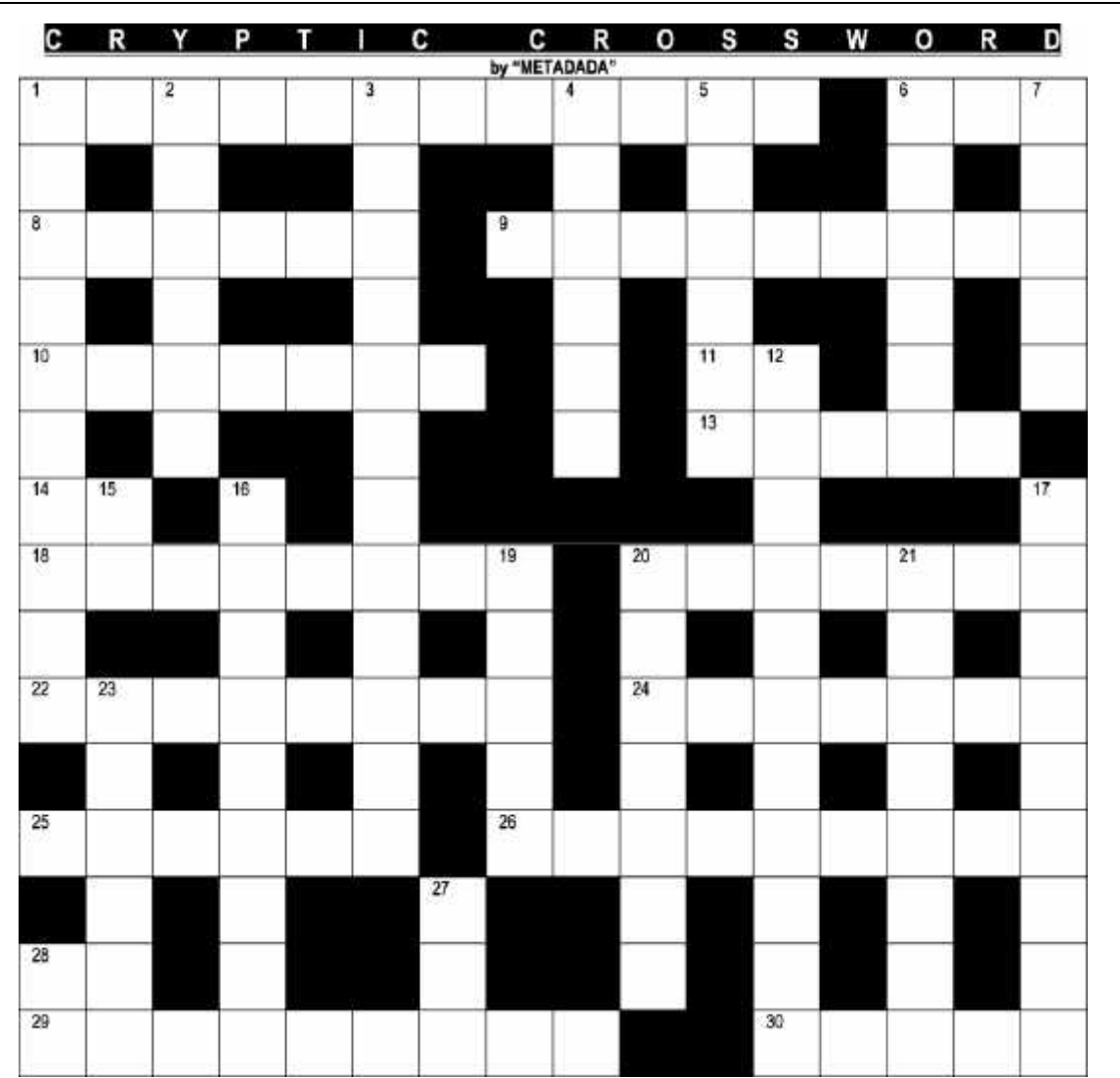
The online music-sharing service Napster has launched an appeal against an order to remain offline until it can prove that its servers cannot be used to violate music copyrights. Napster claims the judge "lacked jurisdiction" when she

"radically modified" her previous ruling, which ordered Napster to make reasonable efforts to stop music piracy over its network. Major record companies, music publishers, songwriters and artists filed copyright infringement suits against Napster. Heavy metal band Metallica and rap artist Dr. Dre settled out of court on Thursday without revealing terms.

STOCKHOLM. DVD confiscated

Hundreds of illegal DVD movies were confiscated yesterday when the enforcement officer conducted a civil search of the store in the Femman building in Gothenburg. The movies are so-called region 1 movies, intended for the American market and therefore forbidden to sell in Europe. In a joint operation against the same chain in central Stockholm, hundreds more DVD movies were confiscated. The total market value is estimated to about 150,000SEK. [14000 USD]

If you have any contributions or suggestions, please contact medianews@thepaper.org.au



- Across**
- 1. Sound of sage jewellery making cash without justification. (12)
 - 6. World Economic Forum seen as representing a backwards group. (3)
 - 8. Product of a process when dancer's miniskirt drowns in big Italian river. (6)
 - 9. One I/O part prepared for a working process. (8)
 - 10. Formal message to style split extreme ends. (7)
 - 11. Briefly thanked twice and stole away with a minimal attempt at (2,5,2)
 - 13. see 11
 - 14. see 11
 - 18. Former century infotech worker of substance that produces arousal. (8)
 - 20. see 4 down
 - 22. Short species of love duck back in New Guinea feeding with curved cutlery. (8)
 - 24. Completely loveless video noir remixed carpool entertainment. (5,2)
 - 25. Country returns burnt skin with electric charge. (6)
 - 26. IOU grade H-bomb for scattered thought. (5,4)
 - 28. see 6 down
 - 29. Took mixing bowl and drank out of it for a 1 across 3 down 9 across. (5,4)
 - 30. An absurd situation right between the eyes, nose and mouth. (5)

- Down**
- 1. Public relations love disordered streets full of people angry at 29 across. (10)
 - 2. Think better without hourless reorganisation. (3,3)
 - 3. Titration left alcoholics anonymous in an abusive state. (12)
 - 4. Are you spritely? Kill without queen and company back before the head honcho finds a head honcho. (6, 7)
 - 5. Strangely fifty, when done as they do in their home town, is not so strange. (6)
 - 6. and 27 across. Affair perched to cast in one's direction. (6,2)
 - 7. Turns and blows. (5)
 - 12. Rents retina flash dance. (5,2,4)
 - 15. Using a hug and a kiss to steer fully developed cart driver. (2)
 - 16. Two names easily confused albino within Mexican capital. (9)
 - 17. Jackie supports dinner and can sing slogans. (9)
 - 19. Richmond supporter turns up about private square. (5).
 - 20. Clairvoyant collective channels doctor in absence of company but not without hesitations. (7)
 - 21. To mistakenly over do on front of stove. (4,4)
 - 23. Concoct to plot an explosion. (4,2)
 - 27. On the way to one after six. (3)
 - 28. Allow heartless exclamation (2)